

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Contact Person

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Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Laura P. Dalma, DOB 01/31/1965, of Madison, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 13 months in prison, followed by a three-year term of supervised release, and restitution of \$49,958.92 for defrauding the Medical Education Institute Inc. between January 2004 and October 2005. Dalma previously pleaded guilty to the charge on August 9, 2006.

Beginning in January 2004, Dalma engaged in a scheme to defraud her employer, Medical Education Institute, Inc. (MEI), by issuing forged company checks to herself, which she deposited into her personal bank account at Wells Fargo Bank. Dalma worked in the accounting department at MEI. She was caught in October 2005 when MEI conducted an audit of their accounting records and discovered the forged checks to Dalma. As part of the scheme, Dalma also wire-transferred MEI funds from the corporate account at Associated Bank to her account at Wells Fargo. Because the wire transfers traveled through the Wells Fargo Electronic Wire Transfer Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, they were charged as wire fraud counts.

The charges against Dalma were the result of an investigation conducted by Madison Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

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